

# RIVERSIDE - LANGEVIN SCHOOL



1909 - 1964

55TH REUNION



## DEDICATION

With deep humility and honour we proudly dedicate this reunion and this booklet to those past students and teachers who paid the supreme sacrifice in the Two World Wars.

May we educate our youth to "hammer their swords into ploughshares" so never again will nation rise against nation.

The reunion committee hope that the next few pages will bring back memories of by gone days, humorous memories, proud memories, poignant memories. If the years are rolled back like a golden scroll then the efforts that went into this evening and the compilation of this booklet will not have been in vain.

WELCOME BACK TO THE HALLS OF LEARNING

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

The Reunion Committee

## THE BRIDGELAND RIVERSIDE STORY

Nestled between the North Hill and the Bow River rests the community of Riverside. Up to 1908 this was not even a part of the city of Calgary. One could easily count on their fingers the homes which lay in this territory. A barbed-wire fence stretched from the hill down present day 6th. St. to Murdock Road or Centre Avenue and east to the Bridgeland district of today. By 1909 the C.P.R. bought this section of land and divided it into lots. A corner lot sold for \$75 and an ordinary lot for \$50. However within 3 months lots jumped in price to \$200 and \$300. Along 4th. St. was the old Riverside Hotel, a grocery store and confectionery. Real estate agents vied for the newly developed lots. The first real estate office went up at 211-7th St. N.E. in September, 1909. Before the building was completed the office was sold to the Hilderman family. By this time one of the most important buildings in the city had been erected, that of the General Hospital. It was started in April 1908 and finished in October of the same year. (Let's see present day construction beat that)

The present Langevin Bridge was built in 1910 and a single street car track was laid. The new "flashy" bridge replaced the old wooden structure which was located west of the present one.

With the new development came not only new settlers from many parts of the world but new industries. The old Cheese factory and Alberta Ice was soon followed by industries like Union Packing, Tuxedo Spices and Home Lumber. Most of our residents found employment with the C.P.R., the packing plants or the city. Regardless of employer, the new settlers had one thing in common, they wished to make Riverside and Calgary their home and they were prepared to work to that end.

Engrained in the very fibre of the new settler was his religious faith which did so much to sustain him in the new world. Because of a cosmopolitan population many different churches were organized. From Russia the Moravians and Orthodox, from Central Europe the Lutheran, Baptist and Evangelical and from the Latin countries of Europe the Roman Catholic. The early settler not only found the church as a bulwark of faith but also found it as a meeting ground of ethnic groups. By the time of the 1st World War churches like Jehovah Lutheran (Missouri Synod) Moravian, St John's Lutheran, (Canadian Synod) Catholic (St. Josephs Parish) had been erected. The present St. Angela School was built first as a Lutheran church having been bought by the Separate School Board as not only a school but a church. Father Anderson conducted mass in the school and when the Redemptorist Fathers came in 1929 they built at their present location. In 1945 the Jehovah Lutheran and the Moravian congregations exchanged churches with most of the other churches retaining their original locations.

By 1908 schools had been started for both German and English speaking protestant classes. (This will be discussed in a later story) Previous to 1913 the Catholic students attended a small brick school on 1st Avenue under principal Mrs Hector. In 1923 Miss Mary English, now Mrs Dick took over as principal and remained until 1949 at which time Mr. Glancy assumed the office of principalship.

## "THE RIVERSIDE LANGEVIN STORY"

The Province of Alberta was but a year or two old. The settlers had been crossing its broad expanse of prairie since the turn of the century. Settlements were being established. As each new settlement gathered its people around it, community facilities were likewise developed. Churches were built, schools erected, businesses established and crude homes constructed. Riverside was no exception. Between 1900 and 1907, Riverside grew from a settlement of four families to one supporting two schools. The old Riverside School (often referred to as Sweder's Meat Market School) was located on 4th Street across from present day Alberta Furniture. Of course while this school was in operation a similar school for German students was held in the church near by. So such was our first beginnings. Finally in April 1909 the Riverside Public School got off the planning board. It was to occupy all of block 101 and the cost of \$4124.39 included block 102 as well.

The contractors, Peers & MacLeod and E.L. Martin built the school for a cost of \$59,466. Wouldn't the Calgary School Board be thrilled to get a school built for that price today? For this \$59,466. some 235,576 cu. ft. of space was constructed. This included everything from playrooms in the basement to assembly hall on top. The records show one room called "the armoury". This wouldn't by any chance be the principal's office - or was school different in those days?. Finally in 1914, block 102 was used for the construction of Bungalow No. 1 (the wooden building) This cost the fabulous sum of \$16,526. and in 1920 Bungalow No. 2 was built costing \$31,650.

Since those years additions have been made, a Home Economics and Industrial Arts department was added in 1944. In 1955 a new auditorium was likewise added.

When the Alberta Government adopted the Junior High School system in 1935, the Riverside Elementary (the 2 cottages) became completely "divorced" from the old sandstone school. Mr. Verge, principal at that time, was given the honour of naming the new Junior High School. After considerable study Mr. Verge chose the name Langevin - the name it bears to this day. The Bungalows kept the name Riverside Elementary. Two famous men influenced the naming of Langevin. Of course the name Sir Hector Louis Langevin, who gave his name to the Langevin Bridge, was well known in early Canadian history. Occupying the offices, Secretary of State in the 1st government in 1867, he later became Post Master General and finally Minister of Interior. It was during his tenure on this office that he gave his name to the bridge.

The other man influential in Mr. Verge's choice was that of Louis Phillippe Langevin better known as Archbishop Langevin. Archbishop Langevin's territory took in most points west of St. Boniface, Manitoba. Working hand in hand with the great missionary, Father Lacombe, Archbishop Langevin travelled to Vienna to plead the cause of the Ruthenian immigrant. His great interest in the Central European made the name Langevin a natural selection. Upon studying the contributions of each man to the welfare of our district, one can only concur in Mr. Verge's choice.

So much for our history. May the next 55 years be just as progressive.

By 1912 Mr. Soon Dayton had started a grocery business where the present O.K. Store is located. By 1919 Mr. Lavine had a dry goods store where the Riverside Department Store is today, later moving up on 1st Avenue where he ran a confectionery and grocery store. The ensuing years saw the establishing of many businesses which are prominent in the Riverside community today, some of which are: The Riverside Dept., Store, Alberta Furniture, Harry & Sons and Peko's Shoe Repair. As businesses extended along 1st Avenue the Riverside community and Bridgeland community were fused in one. By the 1920's Empire Meat, Lavine's Confectionery, Bridgeland Corner, Premier Grocery, Bridgeland Drug and The Modern Barbershop and Beauty Parlor had formed the link between Bridgeland and Riverside. Since then many new businesses in the Bridgeland-Riverside Community have been established to make the community what it is today.

However one must not consider a community to be composed of only businesses, churches and schools. Far more important than these physical aspects of community life is the human element of society. Being such a cosmopolitan settlement the Bridgeland-Riverside Community knew every type of personality imaginable. In no field was the difference in personality shown to a greater extent than in the field of athletics. Few of our old timers will forget the White Sox Hardball Club or The Macdonald Blends Fastball Club or above all The Rover Football Club of the 1930's. In 1932 and 1933 this club was Provincial Champions having won the Bennett Shield. The fetes of these athletic players were known far beyond the borders of our community names far too numerous to list here. Much of the athletic activity centered around the various schools of the district and to this day the four schools in the district are well known for their sportsmanship. The arts were far from being neglected with the churches and schools being prominent in the cultivation of native talent.

Organized recreation in our community centered around three institutions namely, the old Y.M.C.A. on 6a Street, the skating park on 9a Street and the B.R.A.A. The work of the Y.M.C.A. in the 20's and 30's will never be forgotten in our district, under leaders like the Schriener Brothers, Ken Waddell, Peter Luft, Woodrow Repp, Johnny Gordon, Johnny Birt and Ian MacKenzie. This organization brought many laurels to our community. One honour that the leaders brought to our community was the winning of the Western Canadian Championship in the musical drill. A community service was rendered by the students of the Y by the planting of trees along Memorial Drive. Many of our community residents will remember the skating rink on 9a Street. At this time a baseball park was built where the Lions Club homes are today. Community minded businessmen started this organization and in 1947 the B.R.C.A. moved to its present grounds. Many residents have devoted countless hours to the building of one of the finest community centers in the city and presidents such as : Kimmel, Skarupa, Blatchford, Schriener, Fisher, Cowling, Kushner, McRobbie and Beattie have guided this organization to its present status.

This has been but a very brief sketch of our community, omissions will certainly be many as space does not permit the extensive developing of any topics. Many thanks to those with keen memories and community pride that have so kindly contributed the information. Time only enriches such a heritage.

## SUNFLOWER SEEDS, GARLIC AND LEARNIN'

History isn't all dry statistics and facts. No, history is spirit, devotion, work, play, yes and even the odd "donnybrook". Well if this is history, then I guess you might say we at Riverside have had quite a history. It is impossible to capture in writing the "oneness" of our people, the tremendous devotion of our teachers, the sportsmanship of our athletes, the talent of our artists and musicians, etc.

Who of us will ever forget the spirit of Mr. Wallace's and Mr. Bickell's soccer teams or Mr. Findlay's hockey and baseball teams? The name Riverside appears quite often on the Cooper Shield and the Black Shield emblematic of hockey and soccer supremacy. Then too, many of our girls will recall the basketball teams of Miss Williams and Miss Larson. The physical training teams and the trophies (Calgary Herald and Dr. G.W. Kerby Shields) won by our girls. (Maybe it was those bloomers - wow) The names Flood and Ferguson will bring back fond memories as will the camps run by Mr. Dickson and Mr. Yates. (Mr. Dickson reminds me that these camps are now below the Glenmore Dam, so please don't try to return to the old camping ground) Down through the years these sports and activities have not been neglected. Langevin has always been tops in soccer, basketball and is the only school to win the Cominco Trophy for Volleyball for the past nine years. It is impossible to list all the players on these teams as a complete list would go well into the hundreds. Some went on to make a lifetime occupation out of sports, while others found themselves in other walks of life. Both groups having reaped the benefits of their athletic life at Langevin.

Music has added spirit and color to the Langevin-Riverside story. The names Florendine and Kuzmar automatically are associated with choirs. The old auditorium rang with sharps and flats - both men noted for their choirs while Mr. Kuzmar in later years featured many instrumental selections. Then too, who has a memory too short to forget the operettas of Mr. Carter, Miss Larson and Miss Schultz? The backdrops that Miss Verrier and her class did for the operettas were a tribute to instructor and students alike. Yes and all this was done in the old "crows nest". The athletic banquets of the 30's, the christmas concerts, the scrap metal drive during the war all added to the color of the school. One can go back farther than the 30's and 40's and recall the first plays in the old gym. They were staged when there were only elementary grades in our school. Tickets were sold and equipment bought for the school. Our very first principal, Mr. Stickle, bought a piano with the proceeds of such a project. In the first world war years many of our past students will recall helping make clothing, etc., for overseas. Yes, such was the color of Langevin.

However, not all learning is colorful. The academic accomplishments of our students went far beyond our district and city. Our graduates left our halls to fill the professions. McGill, our own University of Alberta, the University of B.C., and many American colleges fell heir to Riverside-Langevin students. This was culminated just last year when The Dr. Oakley Award for Academic Excellence was given on the basis of Grade IX marks. This type of achievement requires the day to day devotion of teacher and student alike. This is the field for which schools are intended. Following is a list of teachers, may the reading of their names bring back memories. Some have passed away but their works will never die. For here in lies the hope of our people - the future of our nation.

# 55th. REUNION - RIVERSIDE-LANGEVIN SCHOOL

Teachers who taught in Riverside-Langevin in order of the year they were assigned. Early records are far from complete and for these we depended upon memory. For student memory purposes we have not changed the maiden names of those who later married.

1910 - No records available.	1919 cont. Mrs. R. Tobias
1911 - W.A. Stickle, Principal	Miss G. Campbell
Miss I. Patrick	Miss E. Lockhart
Miss E. Ferguson	Miss M. McQueen
Miss E. Annand	Miss A. Hallonquist
Miss L. Crimp	Miss E. Grant
Miss I. Halstead	1920 Mrs. Preston
1912 - Miss E. Patterson	1921 F.J. Conn
Miss S. Gordon	Miss B. Hellem
Miss L. Reynolds	Miss N. Fraser
Miss K. Clark	Miss I. Ramsey
Miss A. Swift	Miss E. Hedley
1913 - L.F. Harrop, Principal	Miss A. O'Neil
Miss C. Robertson	Miss M. Winspear
Miss C. Christenson	Miss M. McLeod
Miss E. Hennessey	Miss L. Young
Miss A. McGuire	Miss A. Elliott
Miss N. Rogers	Miss M. Patterson
Miss G. Greig	Miss H. Willison
1914 - E. G. Grant, Principal	Miss M. Grant
Miss M. Hennigar	1922 Miss O. Williams
1915 - Miss B. Atkinson	Miss B. Thomson
Miss E. Roach	Miss J. Moore
Miss K. McEwen	1923 Miss A. Oke
Miss K. McNamee	1924 Miss J. Gunn
1916 - S.Y. Taylor, Principal	Mrs. A. Sheppy
Miss C. McKinnon	Miss M. Hoskin
Mrs. E. Quigley	Miss S. Nagler
Miss H. Davis	1925 Miss D. Turner
Miss F. Stubbs	Miss K. Grace
Mrs. M. Eggett	Miss A. McKelvey
1917 - G.D. Martin, Principal	1926 C.R. Patterson
Miss M. Clarke	R.J. Yates
Miss L. Archibald	Capt. Harrigan
Miss D. Playford	Miss E. Benedict
1918 - no new appointments	1927 Miss I. Murray
1919 - J.W. Verge (later Principal)	H.F. Dickson
Miss J. Ramsey	Miss J. Trotter
Miss M. McNevin	1928 Miss H. Smith
Miss E. McKenzie	R. G. Wallace (later principal)



Teachers continued -

- 1929 - D.E. Bickell  
Miss M. Hutton  
Miss G. Willison  
Miss R. Baptie
- 1930 - Mrs S. Douglas  
Miss E. Porter
- 1931 - Miss J. Van Valkenburg
- 1932 - A.T. Godwin
- 1933 - Miss E. MacPherson  
Miss E. Carson
- 1934 - Miss L. Clarkson  
Miss M. Willison  
(Bungalow names not available)
- 1935 - F. Barnes
- 1936 - J.H. Bryne  
Miss D. Hawley
- 1937 - W.E. Findlay  
(later principal)  
Miss E. McLellan
- 1938 - Miss M. Black
- 1939 - J. W. James
- 1940 - A. Florendine, Principal  
Miss K. Verrier  
Miss J. Ballantyne
- 1941- Miss E. Schultz
- 1942 - E.F. Shackleton
- 1943 - W.C. Davidson
- 1944 - Miss M. Tunstall  
J.A. Collins
- 1945 - R.G. Wallace  
(returned as principal)  
Miss G. Barrol  
E.I. Carter  
Miss E. Larson
- 1946 - L.W. Harper  
Mrs Wilkes
- 1947 - No new appointments
- 1948 - E.R. Coffin  
Miss D. Copp  
Miss M. Thompson
- 1949 - J.A. Kuzmar
- 1950 - No new appointments
- 1951 - A.R. Leitch
- 1952 - E.Culley  
Miss B. Lloyd  
G.W. McCullough  
Miss C. Saw  
Miss V. Saunders  
G.G. Davies
- 1953 - Mrs. M. Melech  
C.E. Yeomans  
M.N. Gavinchuck  
Miss M. McCrimmon  
Miss D. Brown
- 1954 - Miss A. Hodgson  
O.J. Kirk  
Miss M. Way  
Mrs M. Arnold  
E. Nelson  
D. Campbell  
(later principal)  
Mrs. S. McArthur
- 1955 - Mrs. M. Goulding  
Miss S. Schubert  
W. Waslewsky  
Mrs G. McCullough
- 1956 - J.B. Simpson  
Mrs M. Avery  
M.C. Anderson  
A.E. Cahoon  
C.O. Ballard
- 1957 - D. Clark  
L.C. Turley  
Miss I. Alcorn  
Mrs J. Breeze  
Miss J. Deedman  
R.H. Robinson
- 1958 - No new appointments

Teachers continued -

1959 - L. Vague  
Miss J. Foster  
Miss S. Whitehead  
R. Clarke

1960 - A. M. Perrin  
(later principal)  
Mrs J. McAllister  
L. Rappel  
Miss I. Nemeth

1961 - Mrs C. Siebens  
J. Serna  
A. Longair  
R. Harker  
Mrs E. Kerkhoven

1962 - D. Anderson  
Miss C. Bond  
Miss M. Walsh

1963 - Mrs B. Whitney  
N. MacLean

Superintendents and Assistants

Dr. A. M. Scott  
Dr. F. G. Buchanan  
Mr. R. Warren, B.A., M.Ed.

Mr. H. E. Panabaker, M.A.  
Mr. L. A. Daniels, B.A., M.Ed.  
Mr. J. W. James, B.A., M.Ed.

The smooth efficient running of a school depends on many people - to the secretaries, the caretakers, the nurses, the doctors and the dentists, may we, the above mentioned teachers express a heartfelt "Thanks" for all the close co-operation we have experienced over the years.

"Well wishes" from past teachers who cannot attend -

...the girls I taught with at that time have all been scattered and I've been wondering if any of them will be there. (I. Finch)

...I hope you will have a very enjoyable evening. (E. Carson)

...I would dearly like to be there but it will be virtually impossible for me to attend as I will not be returning to Canada till May - will pay the old school a visit then. (C.R. Squarek)

...thanking you for including me on your invitation and wishing you every success in your undertaking. (Estelle MacKenzie Fitch)

...many happy memories of my year in your city - if anyone comes to England pass on my address. (B.R. Lloyd)

...many fond memories of my year as teacher at Langevin. (A.J. Foster)

...my sincerest best wishes for a very successful reunion. If there are any of my old staff in attendance please extend my kindest regards to them. (E.G. Grant)

...wishing you all the best on your 55th Anniversary, sorry I cannot attend. (A. Carscallen)

...I look back at my two years teaching at Langevin School under Mr. Verge as two years of very challenging and very rewarding experiences. I remember many of the students from my classes and have followed some of their careers with interest. (F. Barnes)

WILLIAM ALVY STICKLE, B.Paed., B.A., was born in Dartford, Ontario in 1873. He was educated in Wardworth and Hastings public and high schools; Norwood Model School and attended Cobourg Normal School. He assumed various Ontario teaching assignments, finally accepting a position on the Renfrew High School staff. While at Renfrew he met and married a staff member Miss Jean Davidson of Union, Ontario. They were married on Christmas Day 1900. Following his work at Renfrew, he went to Port Arthur as Superintendent of Schools - their only child Grant, was born while they were at Port Arthur. In 1910 the Stickle family decided to go west. Mr. Stickle taught briefly at Bridgeland and then became principal of Riverside. In 1913 they left Calgary where Mr. Stickle became principal of "The English School for Foreigners" in Vegreville. At one time he taught 50 young men who spoke 35 different languages. Mr. Stickle's mastery of the Latin language enabled him to master this obstacle. Mr. Stickle went on to become Inspector of Schools at Tofield and Red Deer, later to join the staff of the Camrose Normal School in 1917, first under the principal of G. Fred McNally and then as principal. In 1923 he joined the staff of the Calgary Normal School. Two years later in October, 1925 Mr. Stickle passed away. Mr. Stickle received a B. Paed., from Columbia University, New York City and a B.A., from Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

Mr. Stickle was very active in boys' club work, mainly in connection with the Methodist Church of Canada. It was his modest boast that during his tenure at Riverside he never used corporal punishment on any boy, however tough and originally unamiable - and had not really needed to - his kindness, sincerity and leadership abilities would confirm why this is so.

LEWIS FRANKLIN HARROP was born near the village of Hornby, Ontario in October 18, 1861. His elementary education he received at Hornby and Norval and his high school at Brompton. Taking his teacher training from the Toronto Normal School, Mr. Harrop went on to attend summer school courses arranged by the Department of Education and he specialized in Manual Training. He taught in a rural school at Ashgrove, Ontario later moving to Niagara Falls where he taught for 23 years, 21 in the capacity of principal. Mr. Harrop came west in 1910 intending to farm. Purchasing a farm north east of Calgary Mr. Harrop was finally persuaded to leave farming and return to his original profession. Before moving to Calgary in 1913 he taught at Acme. While in Calgary, he was principal of Riverside, Haltain and Elbow Park.

In June 1933 when he retired, Mr. Harrop ended a 20 year service to the Calgary School Board. From Calgary he moved to Vancouver where his two daughters still reside. His son Allan lives in Toronto.

In June 1945, Mr. Harrop passed away, thus ending a life of devotion to education, active interest in community and church work and a sincere interest in the youth of his day.

E. G. GRANT was born at Collingwood, Ontario and came west in 1907. He attended the Strathcona Collegiate in Edmonton and in the spring of 1912 attended the old Calgary Normal School. The years 1912 and 1913 saw Mr. Grant teaching high school at Didsbury and in 1913 he moved to Calgary where he assumed the vice-principalship of King George School. Following his term at King George he came to Riverside as principal. Like many of the men teachers of this time, Mr. Grant's professional career was interrupted by service overseas in World War One. Upon his return he went back to King George School. Completing his term at King George that year Mr. Grant then left the teaching profession. He then went into pharmacy and graduated in 1923 from the University of Alberta, Edmonton. The southern city of Calgary had an attraction for Mr. Grant and he returned to our city where he owned and operated a drug store on Centre Street North. Here he carried on his pharmaceutical practise for some 30 years until his retirement in the summer of 1958. Mr. Grant chose the rainy but beautiful Vancouver as his home where he lives to this day. His interest in Calgary has never waned as he hopes to return to our city in June of this year. It is regrettable that his visit could not have been timed with the Langevin-Riverside reunion.

Mr. Grant's contribution to the life of the North Hill both as an educator and a pharmacist deserves much recognition in our society.

STEPHEN YOUNG TAYLOR was born in Huron County, Ontario on August 4, 1866. He was educated in his native township and Clinton Collegiate Institute, graduating from the Ontario Normal School, Mr. Taylor entered the teaching profession and taught in three Ontario schools. When Alberta was but a year old, Mr. Taylor left the teaching profession and moved to Alberta. However by 1908 he returned to teaching and became principal of Alexandra and later Mount Royal. In 1913 he was a trustee of the Calgary School Board District # 19 and in 1914 acted in the capacity of chairman of this board. In 1915 he resumed teaching, occupying positions at Central and Riverside. He was principal of Riverside from 1916 to 1917. Although he served only one year as principal of our school, during that time he became well known as a capable and wise administrator.

Being a devoted mason, Mr. Taylor assumed the following offices - District Deputy Grand Master of the Wilson District, Ontario (1901-02), Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta (1915-16), Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Alberta (1916-17) and from 1917 to his death he was Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of Alberta.

In 1899 he married Miss Alice Crooks of Brussels, Ontario. They had one son and one daughter.

Mr. Taylor passed away on March 28, 1928.

MR. GEORGE DUNCAN MARTIN was born in Dunnville, Ontario coming west to Penhold as a small child. His father homesteaded in the Penhold district and Mr. Martin taught in a school near Eckville on a permit later going to Calgary Normal School. Following this training he taught at Cowley and Warner in 1913. Here he met and married Mrs. Martin. It is interesting to note that the best man was Mr. Verge who was principal of Riverside after Mr. Martin. In 1914 the Martin's moved to Calgary where Mr. Martin took the position as vice-principal of King George School. He remained as vice-principal at King George until assuming the principalship of Riverside in 1918. His life long friend Mr. Verge succeeded him as principal when Mr. Martin returned to Penhold to farm. However, Mr. Martin answered the call of his profession and again returned to teaching at Penhold, later moving to Coutts. For 15 years he did outstanding educational work at Coutts being instrumental in the building of industrial arts and gymnasium facilities in the southern part of the province. Following his 15 years in Coutts, he moved to Warner for the last 5 years of his teaching life, having been compelled to retire because of sickness. In 1947 the Martin's moved to Lethbridge where Mr. Martin passed away in 1949.

All his life Mr. Martin found himself pioneering new fields and new endeavours. While at Riverside he directed the second pre-vocational school in the province of Alberta; while in Coutts he spearheaded vocational education and of course at no time did he lose his love for rural Alberta. One might say that Mr. Martin was always a pioneer at heart, enjoying new fields and working with young people.

MR. JOSEPH WILLIAM VERGE, B.A. was born in Twillingate, Newfoundland on March 29, 1875. Having taken his educational training in St. John, Mr. Verge found himself teaching at the age of 15. In 1905 he came to Alberta where he worked for the C.P.R. When fire struck the town of Fernie in 1907, Mr. Verge was sent to Cranbrook to administer relief for the C.P.R. However, once a teacher always a teacher Mr. Verge returned to his cherished profession entering normal school and moving to Blairmore. Here he taught for 4 years from 1912-16. In 1916, Mr. Verge went overseas and upon his return went to Raymond. Following his term of teaching in Raymond, Mr. Verge came to Calgary in 1919 and was placed on the Riverside staff. Here he remained for 22 years, 20 of which were in the capacity of principal. In these 22 years, Mr. Verge lost 2 days because of sickness; a record which possibly has never been broken. His past students will never forget his tremendous ability in mathematics and his devoted interest to his students. The respect which he held in his profession was aptly shown when in 1935 the Calgary School Board bestowed upon him the honour of naming the present Langevin school. Although Mr. Verge's last 10 years were spent in blindness at no time did he forget the voice of a past Riverside student. Very often in his later years when past students would meet him he would call them by name even though completely unable to see them.

Words fall short in summing up the all around contribution which Mr. Verge gave this community. One can only say that today many past students have taken their place in society because Mr. Verge devoted his adult life to the youth of this district. Could any greater contribution be made?

Tamworth, England was the birthplace of Mr. A. Florendine. He attended elementary school in Tamworth and then went to Grammar School to obtain his London matriculation. Following Grammar school he enrolled in Birmingham University Training College for Teachers. After 2 years in the college he took a position on the Birmingham staff. In the fall of 1910 Mr and Mrs Florendine came to Calgary. Mr. Florendine taught at Ferintosh for 18 months and in October, 1913 came on the Calgary staff as vice principal of King Edward. The late premier William Aberhart was principal of King Edward at this time and when Mr. Aberhart went as principal of Crescent Heights in 1915 Mr. Florendine succeeded him. This position Mr. Florendine held for 25 years until the provincial government in 1940 converted King Edward into the Normal School. For our Riverside district this was a fortunate event because it meant Mr. Florendine was sent to Langevin as principal. Here he remained until retirement in 1945. Few, if any, will forget the choirs that Mr. Florendine directed as his first love was music and his second mathematics. The respect which he held in his profession could be noted when two of his teachers from King Edward (Mrs. Scott and Miss Verrier) transferred to the Langevin staff when Mr. Florendine moved to our district. Combining his tremendous ability in music with the natural desire for music in our community, Mr. Florendine may look back on his years at Langevin as both inspirational and educational.

MR. R.G. (Bob) WALLACE B.A., B.Ed. was born at Springbank in 1906 where he took his elementary schooling. Later he moved to Rouleah, Saskatchewan and finished his Grade Eleven there. Returning to Calgary he attended the Normal School in 1924-25 and went to the Netherby school district, north of Hanna. In 1927 he moved to Rumsey and taught in the Price School. Applying for a position on the Calgary School Board he found that all schools were staffed so he took this opportunity to finish his Grade twelve and went on the city staff in 1929. He was sent immediately to Riverside school where he stayed for 2 years before returning to Mt. Royal for the first year of his B.A. degree. Hoping to return to Riverside, Mr. Wallace found there was no vacancy so was sent to Tuxedo. However, the next year he was more fortunate and found his wish to return to Riverside come true, here he taught from 1935-41. These years hold many of Mr. Wallace's most cherished memories. In 1941 he was placed on the King Edward Normal School practice staff. The following year he went to Crescent Heights High School and in 1945 he returned to Langevin as principal. In 1949 he went to King Edward as principal the position which he now holds.

His active interest in athletics in our district will long be remembered. The physical training classes, gymnastic groups and regular athletic teams under Mr. Wallace's guidance all brought recognition to the Riverside community.

Possessing a rare quality of leadership with a tremendous devotion to his students, Bob will long be admired and respected as not only a great educator but as a great friend of Riverside people.

MR. W .E. FINDLAY, .B.Ed., B.Sc., Mr. Findlay hales from our sister province Saskatchewan, having been born in the town of Fleming. Following his teacher training in Regina, Mr. Findlay immediately went overseas in 1915 serving with the Infantry and later with the R.C.A.F. While overseas he met and married Mrs. Findlay. Upon returning to civilian life he homesteaded at Athabaska. He taught in the Athabaska district in a school called Fairhaven, later returning to the University of Alberta in Edmonton where he received his B.Sc., degree. In 1930 he went to Killum and the following year moved to Calgary. During his 30 years of teaching in Calgary he has taught at Rideau, Balmoral, Connaught, Crescent Heights and Langevin. In 1949 he assumed the office of principal of Langevin, a position which he maintained until his retirement in 1961. Being a hockey and fast-ball enthusiast Mr. Findlay coached the Riverside teams to many victories. Possibly his greatest recognition has been in the field of science and mathematics teaching.

His contribution to the school through his hobby of photography will never be forgotten. Thanks to Mr. Findlay's untiring devotion to the Langevin school, we can honestly say that Langevin has the best picture gallery of any Junior High School in Calgary.

Possessing a keen memory of past students and events, Mr. Findlay will long be remembered by Riverside people and friends of our district.

MR. A. M. PERRIN, M.Sc., Mr. Perrin was one of our few native Alberta principals, being born in Didsbury. Here he took his elementary and high school education, coming to Calgary for his teacher training in 1934. He and Mrs. Perrin were married in 1938. In 1941-42 he attended Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois where he majored in Industrial Arts. Mr. Perrin received his M.Sc., degree from Oregon State University in 1951. He has taught in several schools in the city of Calgary, some of which were McDougall, Western Canada, Crescent Heights, Rideau, Colonel Walker and in 1961 assumed the principalship of Langevin. Mr. Perrin later moved to Hillhurst and in 1963 assumed the post which he now holds, principal of Rosedale.

His hobbies are out of doors as he finds fishing and hunting a very rewarding pastime.

Mr. Perrin's contribution to the Industrial Arts in our city bears great recognition and those who have taught under him will long remember his tremendous ability in the administrative field.



REFLECTIONS OF A PAST TEACHER

Dear Friends:

I am grateful to you for a suggestion that I record some of my memories of Riverside School and for the invitation to be with you at the celebration of the 55th Anniversary of the Riverside-Langevin School.

For "When time which steals our years away,  
Shall steal our pleasures too,  
The memories of the past remain  
And half those joys renew."

Your suggestion and invitation called up countless ones to my mind. Memories of a large Grade I class, many over age for the grade because English was not their mother tongue and they and their parents had but recently come to Canada. They were really anxious to learn, making surprising and remarkable progress - of course varying I.Q.'s; (we did not know of that term nor methods of discovering it fifty years ago) with the same reactions in behaviour as all children have. I found a very friendly and co-operative staff under the outstanding leadership of the principal, Mr. William Stickle, all of whom received special praise for those qualities from the School Superintendent, Dr. A.M. Scott.

My class occupied the south-east room, with windows looking out on the south hills of Calgary and the Rockies. I have never gotten over my first thrills at the sight of them and often in that room refreshed myself by a glance at them. Many times I called pupils attention to their glories and to them as a part of Our Canada.

The classes were assembled and dismissed in the orderly manner, keeping time to Harold Murtatroyd's well-timed marches, played on the piano in lower hall. Once a month there were class assemblies in the hall and on stairways where classes took turns in providing entertainment and if I remember correctly, those having highest standing for attendance and punctuality for the month were announced. The punctuality and attendance were generally very good for the whole school, a tribute indeed to the parents. I clearly recall the afternoon that my class had its first turn, we had prepared a little play, in which a very small winsome boy took the role of an older person, who admonished the children. At that gathering too, the staff presented Mrs. Fatterley (Miss Sadie Gordon, one of the teachers staff) with a boquet in recognition of her winning, for the Riverside School Choir, first honours in a city-wide singing festival.

Our mid-day meal-lunches for which the majority of the staff remained, were very friendly affairs. Much pleasant good natured banter and as the majority were from the Maritimes and Ontario a discussion on the relative values of educational systems and anything but profound ones on Religion and Politics.

There was great pleasure and some little excitement as well, in my class, when the School Class Library arrived, the first of such in Calgary Schools. All of this was owing to information given me by Miss Ruth Hopkins, who had been "borrowed" from New York Childrens' Library, to organize one in our Central Library. Owing to her invaluable assistance, we had, during the winter of 1917, a weekly evening gathering of pupils from Grades V and VI which we called the "Good Will Club."



Utilizing the west end lobby, not being used at that time for the purpose of an entry, he set up a small library with table, chairs and high book-case borrowed from the Central Library. We also had simple folk-dances, singing games and a small number learned and put on a play in the Assembly Hall. On the expiry of her leave of absence from New York, our little club disbanded.

Of a school concert in the spring of 1915, I regretfully confess to recalling clearly, only two items. One, a Russian dance by a new immigrant, typical of his own country; and a play - a composite of scenes from Alice In Wonderland. The role of Alice was taken by a child of 12 or so, who looked the part with her lovely long hair. Her performance was a demonstration of art and her pronunciation was practically faultless. The costumes for the play were all made from Lonniel's illustrations, by the joint effort of the staff and were truly quite amusing and wonderful.

I had the pleasure while on the City Council by having a space in the Riverside district allocated for a playground and skating rink, properly fenced and later in donating to the School Library there a set of Britannica Encyclopedia, thus parting with one of my most prized possessions. It, therefore, gives me real pleasure and satisfaction to learn from Mr. Campbell that it is of great use to the pupils of Langevin Junior High School.

During the first world war, we feared that there might be considerable friction among the pupils, so largely the children of emigrants from different countries in war-torn Europe. There were probably more parents of all nationalities who were like one wise mother, whose little daughter reported to me on one of those dark days, "My Mother says we must be kind to the English children. (meaning English speaking) not to laugh at them or tease them"

For the Langevin Staff, for the pupils of that school, I do most heartily wish successful and happy days and years there. Success to your 55th. Anniversary gathering, I would like to be with you.

Very sincerely,  
Edith Patterson

Excerpts of letters from those who can't attend our Reunion, but wish to be remembered

- ...I guess I'll just have to "stay put" and think of all the fun we used to have from 1919-22. (Rena E. Tobias)
  - ...I should like, however, to wish you very sincerely a really successful reunion. (J.H. Bryne)
  - ...may you have a jolly good reunion on April 24th. (Dorothy Hawley)
  - ...I regret distance will make it impossible for me to attend this happy occasion. (Sylvia Shubert Christopher)
  - ...it would be nice to see the old students and teachers of Riverside. (Eva Porter)
- (stretch your memory---how many of the above teachers do you remember)

Excerpts of letters from some of the ex-students

- ...it would indeed have been a pleasure to see my teachers once again and to reminisce with my former classmates. (Dorothy Mihalcian Bellamy)
- ...thank you very much for the bulletin announcing the 55th anniversary of the Riverside-Langevin School, I have often wished such a reunion were held as I would very much like to renew acquaintances with those who attended when I did. However, I regret I will be unable to attend due to prior commitments. (Harold Kline)
- ...I am sorry I shall not be able to attend, however, would like to send my congratulations and best wishes to all concerned. (Conrad Hergert)
- ...we are very disappointed at not being able to see and visit again with our old school chums and teachers. We have fond memories of our school days at Riverside. (Norma Benia Ariss)
- ...I regret that I will be unable to attend the 55th reunion but send best wishes to all teachers and former schoolmates. (Pauline Schurman Goff)
- ...I was delighted to receive your invitation to the reunion, but regret I will be unable to attend as I will not be in Calgary at that time. May I take this opportunity of wishing you a very successful and enjoyable evening with past teachers and students. (Donna McRobbie)
- ...How fortunate you are to be able to attend such a reunion. The pleasure of talking over old times is hard to beat. Our school days were such wonderful days, and our teachers the height of patience and understanding. (we might not have thought so at one time but I'm sure we all know this to be true now) Enjoy yourselves tonight and perhaps another time I will be able to join in the fun. (Ella Overland Olmsted)
- ...wish to thank you very much for the invitation to the "open house", but owing to poor health, I will not be able to attend. (Mrs. Tony Wimmer)
- ...I am very sorry to advise that I will be unable to attend as the month of April is an extremely busy time for me. May I wish you every success for this celebration. (R. H. Waring)
- ...received your invitation to-day and was so pleased to know that there is going to be a 55th anniversary, I hope to be able to make the next one. (Bill Harris)
- ...thank you for the very nice invitation to return for a visit but it isn't possible at this time. (Lillian E. Hoseason)
- ...very best wishes for a successful reunion. (Mrs. Laura Kipling)
- ...please accept my heartfelt wishes for every success on your 55th anniversary. (Alma "Pat" Patterson)

Excerpts of letters from some of the ex-students - continued

- ...please accept my sincerest regrets on not being able to attend your "open house". Only last summer, while on vacation, we were able to visit Calgary and enjoy once again the pleasures of my old "home town". Many fond memories returned as we drove by Riverside, Bridgeland and the old cottage school. I do hope that the evening is a great success and thank you for extending to me an opportunity to reach back over the years. (C.J. Keen)
- ...I thank you for the invitation and do certainly wish that I could be there. I would appreciate if and when you hold another reunion in the years to come that I may be invited to attend again. (Kenneth R. Schriner)
- ...I regret we shall be unable to attend due to University of Alberta exams in which I am committed to partake. (Vern Gerlitz)
- ...Even though I will not be there in body you can rest assured my thoughts will be with you all. (Walter Spielman)
- ...It was indeed a pleasant surprise to receive the invitation to the 55th anniversary of Langevin-Riverside School. I would just love to be there for your anniversary but we will be on the high seas by that time. We will be in Calgary somewhat later and will be looking forward to a report of this occasion from the rest of the family. Greetings to you all. (Lydia Gerlitz Kautz)
- ...much to my regret I will not be able to attend the 55th anniversary of my old school. (L.E. Medd)
- ...may you have every success in this reunion. (M.J. Ogilvie Ollis)
- ...I certainly would love to see all the teachers and all my old school chums once again, what fun that would be. (Elizabeth Poffenroth Stone)
- ...please give my best regards to all former teachers and students from both Bridgeland and Langevin who may remember me. (W.N. French)
- ...thank you for the invitation and wish you every success - what a gala affair it will be. (Conrad Leinweber)
- ...Although approximately 5000 miles from Calgary, my thoughts will certainly be with you April 24th. No matter the miles, countries that divide, or the years that pass ever eliminate the sentiment for the old school. (Loretta Borgens Johnson)
- ...Due to working conditions I will not be able to attend. (Adam Krom)
- ...Many thanks for your kind invitation to the "open house" of all old pupils and teachers. It would indeed be a pleasure to attend and renew old friendships but unfortunately I am some 6000 miles away and will not be able to be in Canada this coming summer. If there are any of my former class-mates present I would be deeply pleased to receive letters from them. Hope your evening is a great success and am looking forward to attending the 60th anniversary. (Stewart Cruikshank)

Remember when, Riverside School was an almost square wooden structure on the corner of 4th street and what is now known as Marsh Road. This is now a parking lot on the N. W. corner. Miss Clark was one of the teachers and if memory serves me right, was principal. We were a closely knit bunch and perhaps one of the main contributing factors to our getting so closely acquainted was the double seat and desk arrangement that were standard equipment in class rooms in that day. We did not have modern plumbing either and you did not leave the room for a drink of water. You just filled a cup from the water container in the corner of the room. With this double seating arrangement we shared many things in common, some of which were not so welcome and as a result the boys were happy when the weather was mild enough to permit them to have their hair cut as close to the scalp as possible. Also shed were the woollen or fleeced lined underwear that retained many things besides body heat, notwithstanding the claims that boiling the inner garments was the solution. Boiling was only a temporary solution for with the next new immigrants a more sturdy stock would appear. The boys had a picnic compared to the girls, for they really had long hair those days. They (the girls) also had pride and they would sooner endure rigid treatment and retain their hair even with the slight suggestion of a kerosene odor.

I am sorry, I am unable to recall many details of the class room, maybe it is because I did not see as much of it as most children for I learned at a very early age what was as favorite a Canadian pastime as hockey is to-day. Yes you guessed it, we called it "hookie". The popularity of this sport later gave birth to what is known as a truant officer.

I wasn't in school very long before the sandstone structure first known as Riverside school was in the process of being built. Do any of you boys remember playing in the sand pits on Samis hill where the one horse two wheel carts were used to haul sand up to the scene of the new building structure? Then when there was enough sand accumulated at the school site we would borrow the cornices ornaments which were quarter round in front and were hollow, made of tin, these we used as sleds to haul sand in our own imaginary construction project.

Then, do you remember the historical day when the students marched from the old school to the new? Somehow I did not show immediate appreciation of this gift of a new school. As I recall, one day I was supposed to be in school I ended up at my cousin's place next door to the old school. When questioned as to why I wasn't in school I offered the excuse of having a sore toe and when I heard the resulting laughter I suddenly realized how ridiculous the excuse was as I had travelled twice the distance from where my home now was to the new school. Strange I don't recall ever having a feeling of loneliness in these escapades, therefore may I conclude there must have been companions in crime. I remember as well as my sister Bertha; there were, Peter Pearson, Peter Martinson, the McPhees i.e. Lloyd, Margaret, the Pennies; Delbert, Austin and Nell and Lena of the older class.

Remember, how under the capable leadership of the first principals, Mr. Stickle, followed by Mr. Harrop, the school was soon run like an English college with fine discipline and outstanding results. Riverside won shields and cups with monotonous regularity. This covered sports, music, cadets and Canadian championship in marksmanship by Austin Penney; who was also captain of the Riverside cadets. The Principals mentioned with their staff were followed by many worthy successors; e.g. Mr. Grant, Mr. Martin, Mr. Verge, the latter being vice-principal when I left Riverside.

Someone else will need to pick up the threads of memory from this point.

A. O. "Slats" Gardner.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- 12 -

1. The day everyone marched up to the new school in 1910.
2. Mr. Florendine's choirs.
3. The first principal of the new school.
4. The school rink and the fire hall across the street where Captain Brooks permitted the girls and boys to change for skating.
5. The first piano bought with the proceeds from a series of plays and pantomines.
6. When the janitor made the ink out of powder. Remember the can used to pour the ink.
7. When we all went to Victoria Park in 1910 to celebrate the Coronation of George V. It was one of the first trips the street cars made over the new Langevin Bridge. Remember how we lined up to form a huge Union Jack.
8. Captain Ferguson , physical instructor, with his "chest out and tummys in" commands.
9. When the boys used a piece of sheet metal or a frying pan to slide down the slope around the school.
10. The shags and evening dances in the old gym.
11. Mr. Wallace's pyramid displays.
12. The Red Cross sewing hour during the later years of the first World War. Miss Patterson had the class.
13. The rocks? and the hazardous games of "catch" when a nice round stone was stopped by the jaw.
14. Miss McKenzie catching the fellows sneaking up the stairs to watch the girls - wow, those bloomers.
15. When due to a room shortage a class was held in the auditorium.
16. Going to Edmonton to play soccer.
17. Mr. Verge's enthusiasm over sports.
18. When the Domestic Science Room in the basement was used during the flu epidemic and we assisted the teacher in making soup for the ill.
19. When on the last teaching day of each month, we assembled our pupils on the stairs and in the hall to receive the prize given to the classroom with the highest attendance for the month? The prize was a picture "Good Morning" held for that month. The competition was keen.
20. When basket weaving with raffia was part of our hand-work.

AUTOGRAPHS

*W. D. Lindberg* 63-7109

Many thanks to all who have so willingly given information for this booklet; many thanks to all who have worked so conscientiously to make this reunion a success. To those who have given us the privilege of displaying their pictures, who have taken time to mount them, and have telephoned or delivered them to the reunion committee. To all we offer a million thanks. Should any of you wish the addresses or any names in this book, please feel free to contact this office.

SEE YOU AT OUR 75th ANNIVERSARY.



